

## Partner in research

S.K.



Dr. Filliozat's wife **Vasundhara**, whose Ph.D. is on Vijayanagar inscriptions, talks about Lakula Saivism. She says its foundation was Vedic, and of its four branches, Kalamukha and Pasupatha came to South India and were popular in Karnataka from the 6th century C.E. onwards. Lakulisa Pasupathas pioneered Trikotalayas, where the main sanctum was for Siva, in whose supremacy they believed, with two sanctums for other deities. Wherever they built temples, Lakulisa Pasupathas established schools, where grammar, Vedanta and yoga were taught. A special salary was given to teachers of Kaumara vyakarana. "In Khajuraho, there is a sculpture of Skanda holding a manuscript. The people there say the manuscript is Kaumara vyakarana, although they do not know where it was taught. Colebrook made a copy of a manuscript of Kaumara Vyakarana, which he found in Moodbidri Jaina matha, in Karnataka, and this copy is in India Office Library, London."

Vasundhara feels that French scholars of Sanskrit are not as widely known in India as their work warrants. "The first European professor of Sanskrit was Frenchman Chezy, who gave his first lecture in 1815. Chezy found a Bengali manuscript of Kalidasa's Sakuntalam in Paris. So he learnt Bengali, transliterated the text to Devanagari and then translated it to French. Burnoff translated Srimad Bhagavatam and a portion of the Ramayana into French. Neither of them visited India!"

Vasundhara is a recipient of Kannada Rajyotsava Award, and has co-authored books on Saiva temples with her husband, whom she met while studying under his father in Paris.

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